

Church History



Church History

- *Introduction to Church History*
- *The Ancient Church* AD 1st-3rd centuries
- *The Rise of Christendom* AD 4th-5th centuries
- *The Early Middle Ages* AD 6th-10th centuries
- *The Age of Crusades* AD 11th-13th centuries
- *The Renaissance* AD 14th-15th centuries
- *Conquest and Reformation* AD 16th century
- *The Age of Enlightenment* AD 17th-18th centuries
- *The Age of Revolution* AD 19th century
- *The Modern Age* AD 20th century
- *The Postmodern Age* AD 21st century



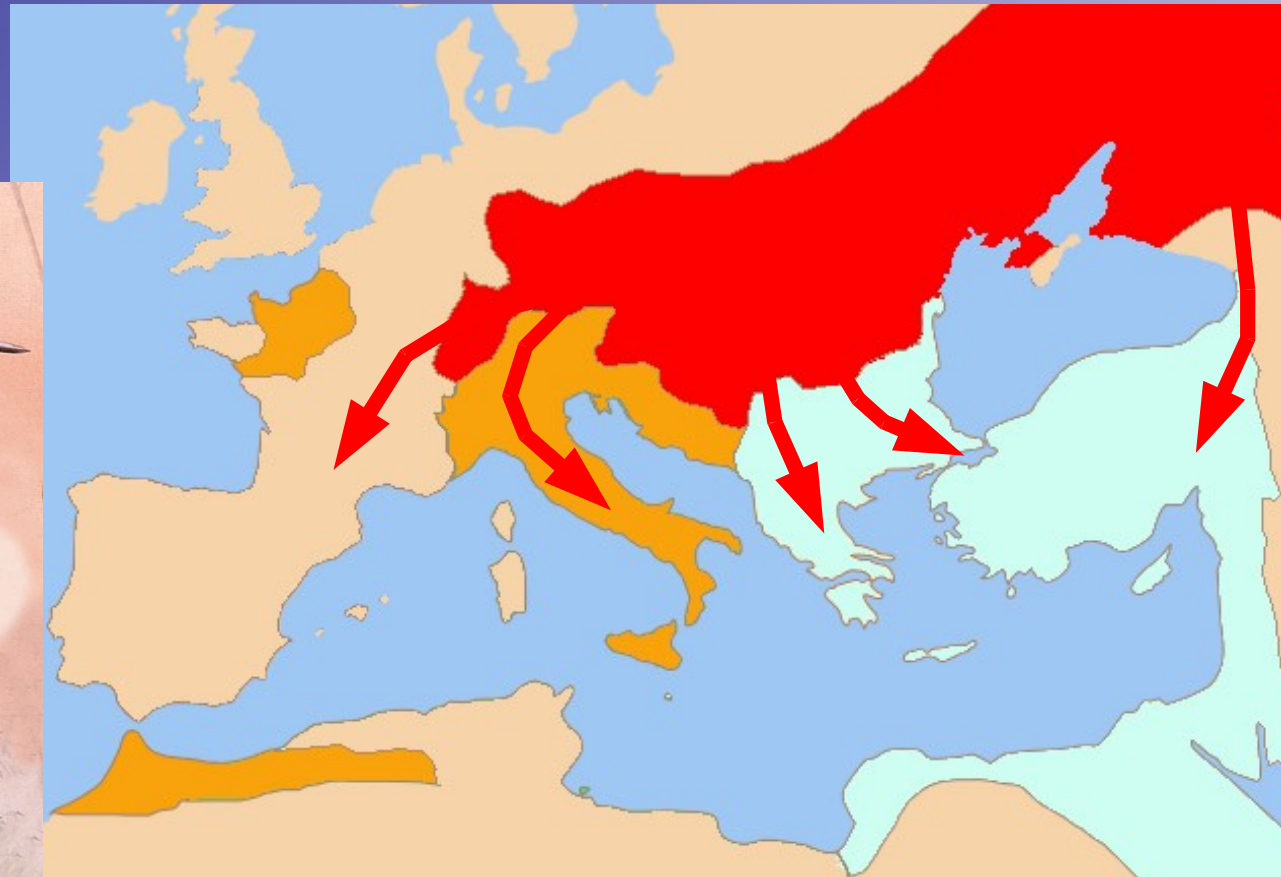
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- *The Ancient Church* AD 1st-3rd centuries
- *The Rise of Christendom* AD 4th-5th centuries
 - *Constantine: The Thirteenth Apostle*
 - *The First Ecumenical Council*
 - *The Constantinian Line*
 - *The Establishment of Christendom*
 - *The Second Ecumenical Council*
 - *Fathers of the New Church*
 - *Things Fall Apart... (part 2)*



The Rise of Christendom

- The Fall of the Roman Empire took a while
410
 - Alaric and his Visigoths sacked Rome
 - But by far, the most increasingly powerful and dangerous group of barbarians were the Huns, whose empire dwarfed Rome and who were continually encroaching on Roman territory



The Rise of Christendom

- The Fall of the Roman Empire took a while
 - 410 Alaric and his Visigoths sacked Rome
 - 420 Jerome completed his Latin Bible
 - The whole point of his Bible translation was to create a version which the common man could read—though within a century or two, it actually became the symbol of *keeping* the Bible from the common man



The Rise of Christendom

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 - 410 Alaric and his Visigoths sacked Rome
 - 420 Jerome completed his Latin Bible
 - 431 Third Ecumenical Council was convened
 - Nestorius, the Archbishop of Constantinople, had been teaching a form of dyophysitism (from the Greek “*δυο-*” [“*duo-*”] and “*φύσις*” [“*physis*”] —i.e.; “two natures”)
 - Jesus had two absolutely separate natures—one completely divine, one totally human (picture a 1st century multiple personality disorder, with utterly distinct personalities)

Man

Nestorianism

God



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 - Nestorius, the Archbishop of Constantinople, had been teaching a form of dyophysitism
 - **The Council declared Nestorius a heretic, as well as Caelestius, a follower of the British Pelagius**
 - Caelestius had taken Pelagianism so far as to argue that man is not naturally sinful, but sinless—and thus, that Christ's death on the cross is not really that important, since we can save ourselves with our own sinlessness



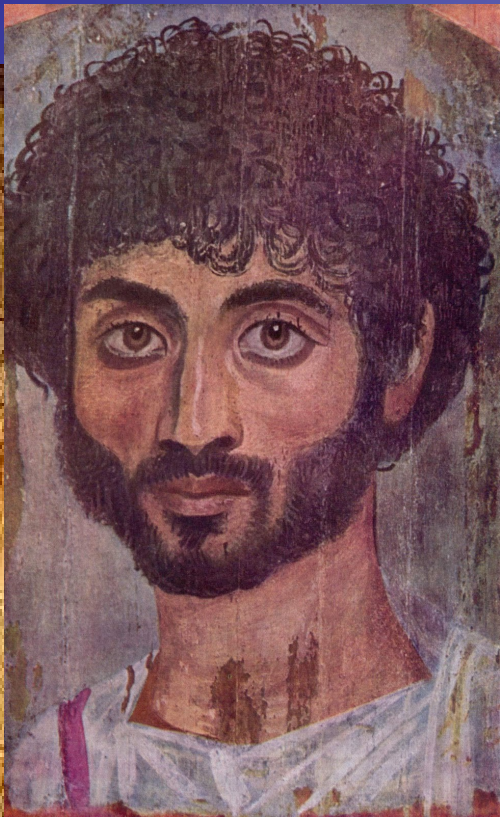
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 - **This created schisms within the Church, since the Eastern churches supported Nestorius, and the Western and Southern churches did not**



The Rise of Christendom

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 - 410 Alaric and his Visigoths sacked Rome
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 - 431 Third Ecumenical Council was convened
 - 444 Eutyches tried to fix the problem
 - Eutyches was a monk from Constantinople, who was teaching a form of monophysitism (from the Greek “*μovo-*” [“*mono-*”] and “*φυσις*” [“*physis*”]—i.e.; “one nature”)
 - Jesus had two aspects to Him—human and Divine—but they combined to form a *third, new* nature—a complete *synthesis* of the two
- Man Eutychianism God
- Just like the colors blue and yellow combine to form a *new* color—green—that’s neither blue nor yellow, and yet all of each of them mixed together



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 - Cyril, Archbishop of Alexandria (and chief opponent of Nestorianism) loved this answer to the problem
 - He wrote extensively about it—though he (and the modern Alexandrian church) called it “*miaphysitism*” (from “*μία-*” [“*mia-*”] and “*στασις*” [“*stasis*”]—i.e.; a “unified nature”)

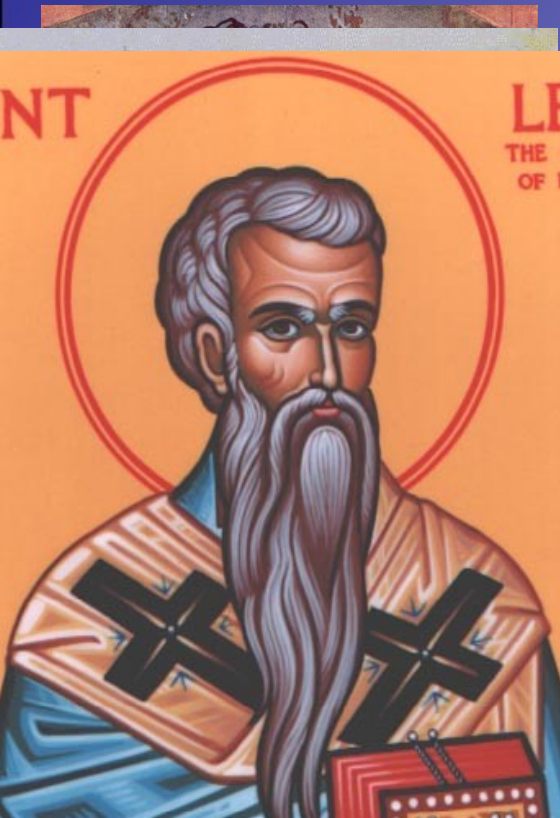


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 - But Pope Leo I *hated* it, and argued for a nuanced view that argued that Jesus was fully God and fully human, with no separations

Man Hypostatic Union **God**

- This doctrine is called “*hypostatic union*” (from “*ὑπό-*” [“*hypó-*”] and “*στασις*” [“*stasis*”]—i.e.; a “union of the underlying support structure”)



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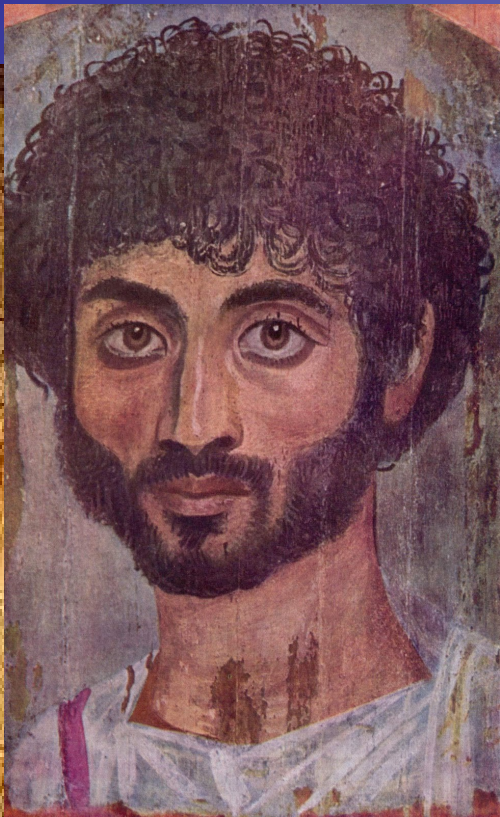
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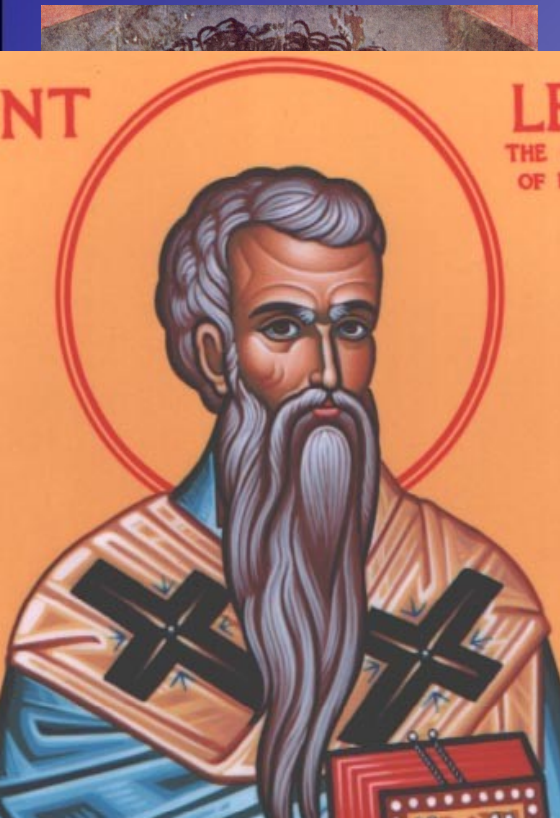
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- A council in 447 declared Eutyches a heretic
- This created *even more* schisms within the Church, since the Southern churches supported Eutyches, and the Western and Eastern churches did not



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 - 449 “Robber Council” was convened
 - The Southern bishops banned all bishops who had voted against Eutyches in previous councils from attending
 - But Pope Leo did send a letter explaining his concerns about Eutyches and Nestorius, and outlining his own “*hypostatic union*” doctrine (it’s officially referred to in church history as the “*Tome of Leo*”)



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 - The leaders of *this* council affirmed Eutyches and the Archbishop Dioscorus of Alexandria had the head of the previous council—Archbishop Flavian of Constantinople—beaten to death at the altar of his own *Megálē Ekklesiā* (then forced all of the bishops at the council to support these actions, on pain of death)
 - The council was thus later referred to as the “robber council” (the “*Latrocinium*”), since their actions appeared so criminal to everyone else
 - You *know* that there's going to be an official response to this...

